

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on pg. 10, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A computer-usable carrier medium is also contemplated herein. The carrier medium may be a storage medium, such as a magnetic or optical disk, a magnetic tape, or a memory. In addition, the carrier medium may be a transmission medium, such as a wire, cable, or wireless medium along which data or program instructions are transmitted, or a signal carrying the data or program instructions along such a wire, cable, or wireless medium. The carrier medium may include program instructions executable on a computational device. The program instructions may include first program instructions executable for determining an inventory status of at least one product being considered for purchase by a buyer and second program instructions executable for informing the buyer of a change in the inventory status before any purchase of the product by the buyer. The first program instructions may further be executable for determining an inventory quantity of the product and for determining an aggregate quantity of the product currently being considered for purchase by all buyers. The first program instructions may also be executable for generating a first notification quantity value by applying a conversion rate factor to the inventory quantity and generating a second notification quantity value by applying a safety margin factor to the first notification quantity value. The second program instructions may further be executable for informing the buyer if either the first or second notification quantity value is equal to or greater than the aggregate quantity. The second program instructions may also be executable for selectively informing the buyer based on a ranked profile of the buyer and for informing the buyer that the product may not be available for shipment if the product is not purchased within a specific timeframe. The second program instructions may further be executable to inform the buyer using a communication means as described above.